

Town of Blandford
Conservation Commission Minutes
November 14, 2022 6:00 PM

Commission Members in attendance: Dick Gates, Colleen Doyle, John Piper

Others in Attendance: Christopher LaRose (Eversource), Kimberly Draghi (BSC Group, Eversource), Amer Raza (Mass DOT), George Riechert

I. New Business

-Eversource 19J5 Distribution Line, Mass DEP File # 111-0060, Request for Certificate of Compliance (COC). After discussion with Eversource representatives, R Gates made a motion to grant the COC as requested. John Piper seconded and vote was unanimous.

-Mass DOT, 20 Woronoco Road (Route 23), Request for Determination for placement of one utility pole. Due to confusion over ownership of the parcel where the pole is to be placed, this request was continued to the next meeting on December 12, 2022.

-Forest Management Plan for the Shephard Farm property. After discussion about the status of the plan with Jeff Jourdain (Forester), the Commission elected to have Jeff walk the property to assess previous tree markings and to discuss this again at the next meeting on December 12, 2022.

-George Reichert inquired if the Conservation Commission was involved with the cutting/removal of dead Ash trees. There was some following discussion about the Emerald Ash Borer problem, but the Commission indicated that the Town Tree Warden was the appropriate contact.

II. Continuing Business

-Park Avenue Solar Solutions (PASS) Settlement Negotiations with Mass DEP. R. Gates is working with the Blandford Highway Superintendent and Mass DEP to try to work out an acceptable design/cost for a culvert replacement at Gibbs Road. The culvert project would be the mitigation component of a settlement with PASS related to Wetland violations that occurred during construction of the solar field at North Blandford Road.

Michael M. Jette
Colleen Doyle
John L. Piper
M. Raza